WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM
OPERATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE REGARDING HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS OR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES

Annex 3

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to identify procedures and responsibilities of large animal veterinary practitioners in preventing, controlling and eradicating foreign animal diseases (FAD) if they occur in Washington and surrounding states.

2. Preventing Foreign Animal Diseases

a. Infection Control Procedures

To prevent the transmission of any infectious disease, not only FAD, large animal veterinary practitioners should continue to use proper infection control procedures. These procedures involve proper hand washing between patients, cleaning, sanitizing and autoclaving of equipment and instruments, and cleaning and sanitizing of outer garments and footwear.

b. Biosecurity

Due to the increased threat of FAD, such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), many dairies and other livestock producers may have initiated biosecurity programs on their farm. The extent of biosecurity will vary from farm to farm. This variation presents two situations. First, the veterinarian has the knowledge and expertise to advise owners/managers on what a biosecurity program should include. Therefore the consulting veterinarian should recommend procedures that would provide the greatest protection to the livestock operation. The second condition is that the veterinarian should also comply with the owner's biosecurity requirements.

c. Education

Veterinarians should provide education to clients, livestock organizations and youth groups at any opportunity available. Education on FMD, travel restrictions, livestock movement, biosecurity and disease prevention are the key to maintaining a viable livestock program in Washington and the United States.

3. Foreign Animal Disease in Washington or Surrounding States

a. Suspect Case

If a call comes into the clinic that describes an animal with symptoms similar to a FAD, such as FMD, err on the side of caution and handle it as a FMD case until proven otherwise. Even if the practice policy is for livestock to come to the large animal facility, make an exception and do a farm call for a number of reasons.

1. If the suspect FMD animal is transported to the clinic and is positive for FMD, then the individual has just spread the disease along the route and to your clinic.

2. If this case is the index case, the veterinary clinic must be placed under quarantine and epidemiologically identified as a FMD infection site secondary to the index premises. The veterinary clinic will be closed until it is cleaned and disinfected and tested 30 days later with sentinel animals.

3. Every effort should be made to educate and inform farmers and ranchers NOT to transport animals showing typical FMD symptoms to the veterinary clinic for diagnosis and treatment. The typical symptoms associated with FMD are vesicles (blisters) followed by erosions in the mouth or on the feet and resulting slobbering and lameness of the animal.

4. It is wise for veterinary staff receiving calls to screen for such symptoms and alert the veterinarian before allowing an owner to come to the clinic or before the veterinarian goes on the call. The veterinarian must be prepared to handle the FMD case properly.

5. The veterinarian should ask the client additional questions that will add to the history of the case before going to the farm or during the examination on the farm. These questions will assist the attending veterinarian, and state or federal veterinarians in assessing the likelihood of FMD in the sick animal(s). The questions will also assist in categorizing the case for subsequent action, and in determining the extent of transmission. Some helpful questions are listed in paragraph 5 below.

6. The private practitioner has a professional and legal responsibility to report the FMD and be prepared to contain the FMD on the suspect premises until a state or federal veterinarian, listed in paragraph 5, can come to the farm to confirm the suspect case. Other concerns center around proper disinfection to enable entering and exiting premises without spreading the disease.

7. In addition to instructing farm and ranch members to curtail movement of people and animals off the farm, the veterinarian must use personal disinfection procedures so he/she is not responsible for spreading the disease. Some recommendations are made in the following paragraphs.

b. Entering Farms/Ranches/Dairies

1. Preplan the visit as noted above, and park vehicle in biosecure area.

2. Exterminate flying insects in the vehicle before closing doors and windows.

3. Preplan and use equipment and supply kits that can be disinfected. An example is to use plastic wrap on electronic instruments that cannot be easily disinfected by autoclaving or immersing in a chemical disinfectant.

4. Before entering premises, don biosecurity overgarments, such as coveralls (laundered or disposable); rubber boots (clean, disinfected), headgear covers e.g. washable cap.

c. Exiting Farms/Ranches/Dairies

1. Where biosecurity is imperative, such as with a highly suspect case or confirmed positive case, vehicles that can not be easily disinfected, such as station wagons, should not be used.

2. Acceptable alternatives are to seal contaminated items in heavy plastic bags and spray or immerse bag with approved disinfectants listed in paragraph 6 below.

3. Clean, wash, and disinfect protective boots before leaving the livestock examination area.

4. DO NOT unbotton/unzip or remove coveralls or biosecurity overgarment until contaminated equipment has been placed in a closed container in the vehicle. Select one area or side of the vehicle where all contaminated and disinfected equipment that was used is stored. The bag where non-expendable examination instruments, necropsy or other specimens, and other contaminated items that are placed must be disinfected for 20 minutes contact time with approved items in paragraph 6, before being placed in the dirty side of the vehicle.

5. Biosecurity overgarments are then sanitized with approved disinfectants if waterproof material is worn. If not, then dirty overgarments should be taken off, being careful to roll the exterior of the overalls or garments onto themselves so that the interior clean side is exposed for handling. Place overgarment into the dirty side of the vehicle.

d. Personal Hygiene

1. Shower or bathe immediately upon returning to a biosecure place, such as a private residence. Thoroughly clean underneath fingernails, and wash and rinse hair. Launder all clothing and undergarments with laundry soap, or antiseptic detergent and hot water.

2. Incinerate or bury FMD disposable overgarments or other disposable items. Do not leave contaminated disposable overgarments at the contaminated premises, unless arrangements are made to burn and bury them with livestock and other contaminated supplies. The owner should be instructed to segregate and confine contaminated supplies that will be burned/buried so that vermin, birds, domestic or feral animals do not have access to the contaminated supplies or carcasses.

e. Other Biosecurity Concerns

1. Veterinarians and veterinary assistants that accompany veterinarians should not handle animals at another farm or residence, including their own livestock for the next 5 days.

2. Assistants should also bathe/shower and don laundered undergarments, street clothing and shoes cleaned with approved disinfectants listed in paragraph 6, if disposable protective footwear was not worn.

3. Direct sunlight (clothes line drying) inactivates the virus as well.

4. Do not pour used disinfectant on the ground. Pour into leak-proof containers labeled "Biohazard" and render inactive by autoclaving, cooking in hot water, or empty into an approved community sewage system.

4. Recommended Biosecurity Measures for Visitors to Farms or Ranches

Biological security measures are becoming standard in many agricultural sectors. These controls, meant to minimize the risk of disease introduction and spread, can vary greatly according to operation, and type of visit. Owners/producers may have more stringent biosecurity measures and those should be followed instead.

Minimum Biosecurity Measures

- Avoid livestock areas, pens, barns, etc., unless necessary to complete the goal of the visit.
- Park vehicles on paved or hard surface areas, away from production sites on the farm, to avoid contact with dirt, mud or manure.
- Wash hands with soap and water or an antibacterial gel before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.

Biosecurity Levels

Levels of biosecurity are based on livestock contact and purpose of the visit. Each level identifies procedures necessary to prevent disease transmission on and off the farm.

Level 1 - Visits to farms or ranches that entail office or home visits only. No contact with livestock or their housing (including pet horses or work dogs)

- Use the minimum measures outlined above

Level 2 - Visits to farms or ranches where minimal contact with livestock or their housing (barns, pens, hutches, etc) is unavoidable to attain the goal of the visit, i.e. property appraisals, tours of production facilities, or dairy farm inspections. Contact constitutes walking through animal housing or pastures, but there is **no** contact with animals.

- Apply minimum biosecurity measures **plus**
- Immediately put on clean rubber boots or new plastic disposable boots upon exiting the vehicle.
- After returning to the vehicle, clean and disinfect any equipment used with a brush and approved EPA disinfectant solution.
- Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water as directed by the label. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Unused disinfectant solution should not be discarded on the ground.
- If wearing plastic boots, place them in a plastic bag that should be left on the premises for the owner/producer to dispose of, or place in a designated 'dirty' area of the vehicle.

Level 3 - Visits to farms or ranches where there will be close contact with livestock. Examples are walking through narrowly confined pens, lots where animals are within reach, actually handling/inspecting animals, or a farm call for veterinary medical treatment.

- Pre-plan the needed supplies and clothing for daily visits. Use clean clothes for each premises.
- Designate a 'dirty ' area in the vehicle for clothing and equipment that has been used on the premises.
- Park the vehicle on paved or hard surface area away from production facilities.
- Put on clean coveralls and rubber boots immediately upon exiting the vehicle.
- After returning to the vehicle, clean and disinfectant all equipment used (including eyewear) and place all disposable supplies in a plastic bag to leave on the premises for disposal or place in a plastic bag and store in the 'dirty' vehicle space. Dispose of the bag later where livestock contact is not possible.
- Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris.

Dispose of the disinfectant according to the label. Unused Disinfectant should not be discarded on the ground.

- Remove coveralls so that they are inside out and place disposable coveralls in the plastic garbage bag.
- Place the clean equipment and boots in a designated 'clean' area of the vehicle.
- If the vehicle gets contaminated with manure or mud, clean the underside of the vehicle, tires and wheel wells at the nearest pressure wash station.
- At the end of the day, dispose of all 'dirty' plastic bags in a manner that prevents exposure to other livestock. Launder all cloth coveralls. Personal hygiene should include shampooing hair and cleaning under fingernails.

5. State and Federal Field Veterinarians

If you recognize signs of a FAD and suspect FMD, report immediately to the following state or federal offices, or field veterinarians.

WSDA, Animal Health Program, Olympia	(360) 902-1878
Dr. Jeff Howlett - Northwest WA	(360) 966-3091
Dr. Dick Vetter - Southwest WA	(360) 245-3473
Dr. Lee Williams - Central WA	(509) 765-3922
Dr. Peter Tran - Southeast WA	(509) 786-2712
USDA Veterinary Services, Olympia	(360) 753-9430
Dr. Rolf Westly, Eastern WA	(509) 257-2953
Dr. Don Dixon, Northeast WA	(509) 476-2635

6. Disinfectants Recommended by USDA/APHIS (Revised 3/16/2001)

a. Virkon-S (Potassium Peroxymonosulfate and Sodium Chloride) -- Follow label instructions.

b. Household bleach (5.25% Sodium Hypochlorite) -- To make a 3% solution, mix 2 gallons of bleach with 3 gallons of water. NOTE: Ensure manure and built up organic material is removed with soap and water on boots, or with a pressurized spray washer on equipment/vehicles before sanitizing with bleach solution.

c. Acetic acid (4-5%) -- Household vinegar is 4% acetic acid and can be used without mixing. See NOTE above.

d. Soda Ash (Sodium Carbonate) -- To mix a 4% solution, add 1 pound to 3 gallons of water. NOTE: It is mildly caustic and will dull painted surfaces.

e. Lye (Sodium Hydroxide) -- To make a 2% solution, mix 1/3 cup lye pellets with 1 gallon of water. NOTE: Highly caustic and will cause equipment corrosion. Personnel protective clothing, such as rubber aprons, rubber gloves and safety glasses must be worn. Mix by adding the lye to the water. Do NOT add water to lye.

7. Questions for Determining FMD History

a. Have any domestic livestock (ruminants or swine) on the premises been sick within the last month?

b. Have any domestic livestock (ruminants or swine) moved onto the premises within the past 30-90 days?

c. Have any domestic livestock (ruminants or swine) moved off the premises within the past 30-90 days?

d. Do farm employees live on other farms?

e. Are any members of the family or any of the employee families employed off the farm?

f. Have any members of the family, employees, and their families, or neighbors received food from a foreign country within the past three months?

g. Have any members of the family, employees or members of their families, or neighbors visited a foreign country within the past three months?

h. Have any foreign residents visited the family, employees and their families or neighbors within the past three months?

i. List the names, locations and dates of any visitors within the past 3-4 months. Examples are salesmen, equipment repair person, feed delivery person, livestock buyers or sellers, milk trucks, etc.

j. Are wildlife especially feral swine, deer, elk, and birds (domestic and wildlife) on the premises?

k. Are the premises located near a zoological or exhibition park?

l. Are pets on the premises?

m. Are rats and mice plentiful, moderate or few in population?

n. Are poultry or other domestic fowl raised on the premises, confined or allowed to free roam?

o. Is household refuse or garbage fed to domestic livestock (ruminants or swine)? If so, how is it processed before feeding?

p. Is garbage brought onto the premises to be fed to domestic livestock (ruminants or swine)? If so, how is it processed before feeding?

q. Are there any garbage or refuse dumps in the vicinity?

r. Is artificial insemination being used? If so identify the association and location, the animals inseminated in the last 3 months, and name of persons performing the insemination.

s. Have other veterinary services been used within the last three months? Specify the condition being treated and by who and when.

t. Have fields been sprayed or injected with manure recently? Have neighbors recently sprayed or injected their fields within the last 3 months?

u. Is there an active vector control program being implemented on the premises?

8. USDA Priority System for Assessing FAD Risk

Use the above information and criteria to develop an emergency management plan for your large animal practice for each of the listed USDA Priorities.

a. **Priority 1**: (Highest Priority/Urgency) Used when the known investigation information makes it very likely that the observed condition is a FAD and prompt laboratory diagnostic information is required. In this case the veterinarian should not leave the premises until the State Veterinarian is notified and a State or Federal Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician arrives to take responsibility for establishing disinfection and animal quarantine procedures. Veterinarians and their assistants should not attend to any other susceptible livestock for at least five days.

b. **Priority 2**: (Moderate Urgency) Used when known investigation information cannot distinguish the observed condition between a FAD or an endemic disease/condition and rapid laboratory diagnostic information is necessary. If the practicing veterinarian suspects that a FAD is possible, but the history of the case does not support the FAD, the veterinarian should immediately report

the disease to the State Veterinarian. The veterinarian should take responsibility to thoroughly disinfect his/her equipment and him/herself with approved disinfectants. The veterinarian may depart the facility before the FADD arrives. A FADD will be sent immediately to collect samples and examine the animal.

c. **Priority 3**: (Lowest Urgency) Used when known investigation information cannot distinguish the observed condition between a FAD or an endemic disease/condition, but is most likely an endemic disease/condition due to other factors (examples are season, previously diagnosed disease in the adjacent area, etc.). The veterinarian would handle this case as any other sick call, however the State Veterinarian must be notified to determine if a state or federal veterinarian should be sent to examine the animal.